

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 21

2 **48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE TO ENACT THE LUPUS
12 RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT AND AUTHORIZE APPROPRIATIONS TO
13 STRENGTHEN THE RESEARCH EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY THE CAUSES OF AND
14 CURE FOR LUPUS.

15
16 WHEREAS, lupus is a chronic autoimmune disease that causes
17 inflammation of various parts of the body, especially the skin,
18 joints, blood and kidneys; and

19 WHEREAS, the immune system normally protects the body
20 against viruses, bacteria and other foreign materials; and

21 WHEREAS, in an autoimmune disease like lupus, the immune
22 system loses its ability to tell the difference between foreign
23 substances and its own cells and tissues; and

24 WHEREAS, the immune system then makes antibodies directed
25 against "self"; and

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1 WHEREAS, lupus attacks vital organs, causes disabilities
2 and can be fatal; and

3 WHEREAS, there are approximately one million five hundred
4 thousand to two million Americans who suffer from lupus; and

5 WHEREAS, in New Mexico, with a population of one million
6 eight hundred seventy-four thousand six hundred fourteen
7 people, there are nine thousand six hundred sixty-nine reported
8 cases of lupus; and

9 WHEREAS, lupus affects women nine times more than men; and

10 WHEREAS, lupus is two to three times more common among
11 African Americans, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Native
12 Americans; and

13 WHEREAS, about five percent of the children born to
14 individuals with lupus will develop the illness; and

15 WHEREAS, there are no new cures for lupus; and

16 WHEREAS, there have been no new drugs approved from the
17 food and drug administration for lupus in nearly forty years;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, the Lupus Research Enhancement Act creates a
20 lupus research enhancement program to make grants to state
21 academic medical institutions that conduct basic, clinical,
22 social, translational, technological, epidemiological and
23 behavioral research on lupus; and

24 WHEREAS, the Lupus Research Enhancement Act establishes a
25 lupus research advisory council to review submitted grant

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1 applications and make recommendations to the appropriate state
2 agencies; and

3 WHEREAS, the Lupus Research Enhancement Act calls upon the
4 council to consult with the national institutes of health, the
5 centers for disease control and prevention, the agency for
6 healthcare research and quality, the institute of medicine and
7 lupus advocacy groups to solicit information regarding lupus
8 research projects currently being conducted and make
9 recommendations for future projects;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
11 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislature take into
12 consideration the enactment of the Lupus Research Enhancement
13 Act and authorize appropriations deemed necessary to take care
14 of those New Mexicans who suffer from lupus; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
16 transmitted to the children's cabinet of the office of the
17 governor.